

(d) *Partially recovered.* Agencies must make every effort to restore in the local commuting area, according to the circumstances in each case, an individual who has partially recovered from a compensable injury and who is able to return to limited duty. At a minimum, this would mean treating these employees substantially the same as other handicapped individuals under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. (See 29 U.S.C. 791(b) and 794.) If the individual fully recovers, he or she is entitled to be considered for the position held at the time of injury, or an equivalent one. A partially recovered employee is expected to seek reemployment as soon as he or she is able.

§ 353.302 Retention protections.

An injured employee enjoys no special protection in a reduction in force. Separation by reduction in force or for cause while on compensation means the individual has no restoration rights.

§ 353.303 Restoration rights of TAPER employees.

An employee serving in the competitive service under a temporary appointment pending establishment of a register (TAPER) under § 316.201 of this chapter (other than an employee serving in a position classified above GS-15), is entitled to be restored to the position he or she left or an equivalent one in the same commuting area.

§ 353.304 Appeals to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, an injured employee or former employee of an agency in the executive branch (including the U.S. Postal Service and the Postal Rate Commission) may appeal to the MSPB an agency's failure to restore, improper restoration, or failure to return an employee following a leave of absence. All appeals must be submitted in accordance with MSPB's regulations.

(b) An individual who fully recovers from a compensable injury more than 1 year after compensation begins may appeal to MSPB as provided for in parts 302 and 330 of this chapter for ex-

cepted and competitive service employees, respectively.

(c) An individual who is partially recovered from a compensable injury may appeal to MSPB for a determination of whether the agency is acting arbitrarily and capriciously in denying restoration. Upon reemployment, a partially recovered employee may also appeal the agency's failure to credit time spent on compensation for purposes of rights and benefits based upon length of service.

PART 359—REMOVAL FROM THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE; GUARANTEED PLACEMENT IN OTHER PERSONNEL SYSTEMS

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Subpart I—Removal of Noncareer and Limited Appointees and Reemployed Annuitants

- 359.901 Coverage.
- 359.902 Conditions of removal.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1302 and 3596, unless otherwise noted.

SOURCE: 54 FR 18876, May 3, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A [Reserved]

Subpart B—General Provisions

§ 359.201 Regulatory requirements.

This part contains the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that implement subchapter V of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, on the Senior Executive Service (SES).

§ 359.202 Definitions.

Agency, Senior Executive Service position, senior executive, career appointee, limited emergency appointee, limited term appointee, and noncareer appointee, are defined in 5 U.S.C. 3132(a).

Probation and probationary period mean the 1-year probation required by 5 U.S.C. 3393(d) upon initial career appointment to the SES.

Reemployed annuitant means an individual who is receiving an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System on the basis of his or her former Federal service. A reemployed annuitant serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

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Subpart C [Reserved]

Subpart D—Removal of Career Appointees During Probation

§ 359.401 General exclusions.

This subpart does not apply to the removal of a career appointee during probation when—

(a) The action is initiated under 5 U.S.C. 1206(g) or 5 U.S.C. 7542;

(b) The removal is effected under subpart C of this part for failure to be recertified; or

(c) The appointee is a reemployed annuitant. See subpart I of this part for removal of a reemployed annuitant.

[56 FR 172, Jan. 3, 1991]

§ 359.402 Removal: Unacceptable performance.

(a) *Coverage*. This section covers the removal of a career appointee from the SES during the probationary period for unacceptable performance.

(b) *Basis for action*. A removal under this section need not be based upon a final rating under the agency's SES performance appraisal system established under subpart C of part 430 of this chapter. Even if a removal is based on such a rating, the removal action is taken under this section.

(c) *Procedures*. The agency shall notify the appointee in writing before the effective date of the action. The notice shall, as a minimum—

(1) State the agency's conclusions as to the inadequacies of the appointee's performance;

(2) State whether the appointee has placement rights under § 359.701 and, if so, identify the position to which the appointee will be assigned; and

(3) Show the effective date of the action.

§ 359.403 Removal: Conduct.

(a) *Coverage*. (1) This section covers the removal of a career appointee from the SES during the probationary period for misconduct, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or failure to accept a directed reassignment or to accompany a position in a transfer of function.

(2) This section does not apply, however, when the appointee was covered under 5 U.S.C. 7511 immediately before